

## **The Ganley-Wellman Collection Papers**

**1945-1953**

**2 linear feet**

Accession #308  
OCLC #  
DALNET #

The papers of Nat Ganley and Saul Wellman were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1969 and were opened for research in 1993. Nat Ganley has a separate collection under his name.

Nat Ganley, born Nathan Kaplan in 1919, was an active Communist most of his life, serving early in the Communist youth movement and in the 1940s on the National Committee of the Communist Party. Ganley was active in the labor movement too, helping to organize the National Textile Workers in New England; later in Detroit he helped found UAW Local 155 and edited its newspaper. He used the name Ganley upon moving to Detroit in 1934 hoping to hide his identity from area employers. He was convicted in 1954 for violation of the Smith Act but a U.S. appeals court later overturned the ruling upon a rehearing ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court. Ganley died in 1969.

Saul Wellman, Ganley's friend, also was active in the Michigan Communist Party. Wellman, a Spanish Civil War veteran, worked to promote Communism within Detroit auto plants. He, too, was tried under the Smith Act. Wellman remained active in left-wing politics in Detroit into the 1970s.

The Ganley-Wellman Collection contains clippings, reports, speeches, lecture notes, and election material relating to the Communist Party of Michigan, Detroit, and the national organization—mostly in the 1940s. The college lecture material deals with the relationship between labor and Communism and Marxist-Leninist theory on dialectical materialism and political economy.

### **Important subjects in the collection:**

Communist Party in WWII  
Labor and Communism  
African-Americans and Communism  
Smith Act

### **Related Collections:**

Saul Wellman Book Collection

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